

M-11628 US

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of the claims. In that regard, claims 1 and 19 have been amended to reflect the feature shown in Applicants' Figure 9 and supporting discussion in the specification: that the phase change layer is directly deposited onto the stamped substrate.

Such a first surface disk is starkly different from the cited prior art. It was Applicants discovery that forming such a first surface disk using a mother stamper process enhanced the formation of both ROM and RAM areas in the stamped substrate.

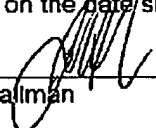
Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection the rejection of the pending claims as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants note that claims can have written support despite not having ipso facto antecedent basis in the specification. For example, a patentee may disclose "half-a-dozen" in the specification but may rightfully claim "six." Here, Applicants have considerable description in the background section noting that "second surface" disks have a relatively thick defocusing layer (see, e.g., page 5, lines 5-16). Because of this defocusing layer, users can handle conventional second surface disks such as DVDs, leaving all manner of fingerprints and dust on the disk, yet still be able to read and write successfully to such disks.

A first surface disk, however, such as the one shown in Figs. 1 and 2A, has no such defocusing layer. Although the resulting disk cannot be handled by users, it no longer suffers from the optical aberrations introduced by the defocusing layer, thereby achieving greater data density. Thus, it is abundantly clear to those of ordinary skill that Applicants first surface disk is distinguished from conventional second surface disks by the lack of a defocusing layer such that there is no new matter. However, to move the prosecution along, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 9 to remove the objected-to limitations. In their place, a "consisting" of limitation has been introduced as suggested by the Examiner.

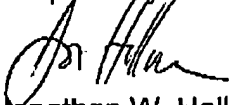
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The prior art stands in sharp contrast to the claimed methods. Specifically, Edwards publication (2001/0016301), the Mhetar reference (USP 6,355,766), the Pan reference (USP 4,960,680), the Dobbin reference (RE 34,506), the abstract (JP 3-105739), the Isono reference (USP 6,458,985), and the Morita reference (USP 6,207,247) in no way disclose or suggest an optical disk consisting of a stamped substrate, a phase-change layer deposited directly on the stamped substrate, and an overlaying dielectric layer. As such, these reference couldn't possibly suggest or teach a method of forming such a disk using a mother stamping method as claimed. Accordingly, the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned at (949) 752-7040 is welcomed and encouraged.

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 Jon Hallman	December 5, 2005

Respectfully submitted,


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